

WORK AREA

The magic bullet

Specter may have been right all along

It sometimes seems as if Sen. Arlen Specter has two opinions on every subject. But for nearly 30 years, Specter has single-mindedly stuck to his guns on the "single-bullet theory," of which he is the author.

As a junior counsel on the Warren Commission investigating the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Specter devised the notion that a single bullet ripped through Kennedy's back as he rode in the presidential limousine through Dallas, exited, struck Texas Gov. John Connally in the shoulder as he rode in the seat in front, shattered his fifth right rib, exited, struck Connally in the wrist, exited, and struck the governor in his left thigh, breaking the skin.

Now that's a lot of damage for a single bullet to wreak, and so it's come to be known as the "magic bullet." Conspiracy buffs say multiple bullets did all that damage, and

that means Lee Harvey Oswald couldn't have acted alone, as the Warren Commission concluded.

"One of the grossest lies ever foisted on the American people," Kevin Costner's character calls the theory in the recent film *JFK*. Our own columnist, Steve Lopez, said he demonstrated the magic bullet's path to his sons this way: "I got a running start and dived through the back of a car, emerged out a side window, hovered, entered another car, and landed in the driver's seat unscathed."

Specter may have the last laugh, bitter though it may be. An impressive new book, *Case Closed* by lawyer Gerald Posner, supports him. Posner commissioned a firm that specializes in computerized reconstructions for use in litigation to conduct elaborate tests. It confirmed the theory. "For those seeking the truth about the assassination, the facts ... are incontrovertible," writes Posner.

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